IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA GREENVILLE DIVISION

CALVIN BARTON, DENISE BLACKWELL, BRIAN BROWNLESS, SHAMIKA CURETON, JOSEPH HOPKINS, LaTOYA JAMISON, LISA JAMISON, TERRANCE JOHNSON, KELLY PARDUE, and PAULINE WARREN.

Plaintiffs,

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v. : Civil Action No.:

COLUMBIA FARMS, INC.

Defendant.

NOTICE OF REMOVAL OF CIVIL ACTION

COMES NOW Defendant Columbia Farms, Inc. (hereinafter "Defendant") and for its Notice of Removal of Civil Action ("Notice") respectfully submits as follows:

Defendant is named in a civil action in the Court of Common Pleas for the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, Case Number 09-CP-23-5244, styled <u>Calvin Barton</u>, <u>Denise Blackwell</u>, <u>Brian Brownlee</u>, <u>Shamika Cureton</u>, <u>Joseph Hopkins</u>, <u>LaToya Jamison</u>, <u>Lisa Jamison</u>, <u>Terrance Johnson</u>, <u>Jelly Pardue and Pauline v</u>. <u>Columbia Farms</u>, <u>Inc.</u> A copy of the Complaint, Summons, Plaintiffs' First Set of Interrogatories to Defendants and Plaintiffs' First Set of Requests to Produce to Defendant served upon Defendant are attached hereto as Exhibits "A," "B," "C," and "D" respectively. The documents attached hereto as Exhibits "A," "B," "C," and "D" constitute the only process, pleadings, and orders served upon the Defendant.

- Defendant accepted service on June 30, 2009. This notice is being filed within thirty (30) days of receipt of the Complaint and acceptance of service, and therefore is timely pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1446(b).
- Plaintiffs allege that they are entitled to relief under the Fair Labor Standards Act,
 29 U.S.C. §§ 201 et. seq. Said claims arise under the laws of the United States.
- 4. 29 U.S.C. § 216 (b) provides in part, "An action to recover liability may be maintained against any employer...in any Federal or State court of competent jurisdiction..." In addition, this Court has supplemental jurisdiction over any state law claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367, and therefore, the entire case may be removed pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1441(c).
- 5. Original jurisdiction is vested in this court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§1331 and 1367, and this case is removable by this Defendant pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1441 and 1446.
- 6. The state court in which this action was commenced is within this Court's district and division.
- 7. Concurrent with the filing of this Notice, Defendant will file a Notice of Filing of Removal to the United States District Court for District of South Carolina, Greenville Division, with the Clerk of Court of Common Pleas for the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, State of South Carolina, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446(d), Attached hereto as Exhibit "E."

WHEREFORE, subject to and without waiver of any available defenses, Defendant prays that this action be removed from the Court of Common Pleas for the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, State of South Carolina to the United States District Court for District of

South Carolina, Greenville Division, as provided by law.

Respectfully submitted this 19th day of July, 2009.

Overlook Executive Park 109 Laurens Road Building 4, Suite A Greenville, SC 29607 1860 864-242-9484 864-242-6833 facsimile mldjr@wldf-law.com WIMBERLY LAWSON DANIELS & FISHER, LLC

By: /s/ M. Lee Daniels, Jr.
M. Lee Daniels, Jr.
Fed ID No. 413

Local Rule 83.I.04 Counsel For Defendant

and

WIMBERLY, LAWSON, STECKEL, WEATHERSBY & SCHNEIDER, P.C.

Suite 400, Lenox Towers 3400 Peachtree Road, N.E. Atlanta, Georgia 30326 404-365-0900 404-261-3707 jls@wimlaw.com

J. Larry Stine GA Bar No. 682555

Lead Trial Counsel for Defendant Local Rule 83.I.05 Application Pending